Additional projects in the pipeline and at various stages of implementation include projects relating to improving physical facilities and infrastructure at important border customs stations and check-posts, pilot projects in community development, setting-up of a trauma-center at Bir Hospital in Kathmandu, embankment construction on identified border rivers, and setting up of a high tech Optical Fiber Cable network along the Terai. In addition, GOI would continue with its on-going co-operation in areas of education and welfare activities for ex-servicemen etc.

VII. Sri Lanka:

(i) India Cancer Centre—Government of India has committed US$7.5 million to set up an India Cancer Centre in Colombo.

(ii) Gift of 42 seater bus to Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

(iii) Gift of CT scanner to Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

(iv) Modernisation of existing vocational centre at Kotagala.

(v) India has also committed assistance for supply of intraocular lenses for Cataract operations, supply of four ambulances and setting up of a 100-bed hospital unit in Hatton for the North especially for the Estate workers.

(vi) Setting up of a training and development center in Sri lanka by HMT are under process.

Indo-Sri Lanka Accord

3638. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fifteen years after signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord, India ia projecting an interest in one of the more controversial provisions of the treaty that gives it first preference in the running of an oil storage facility in the eastern district of Tricomalee;

(b) if so, whether the Indian High Commissioner alongwith the Indian Defence Advisor visited Tricomalee and the oil farm since the signing of the 1987 accord;

(c) whether Government have decided to implement the accord fully; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Lanka IOC (India Oil Corporation) Pvt. Ltd. and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation/Government of Sri Lanka signed on February 7,2003 an agreement whereby the latter has agreed to lease the storage facility and the land appurtenant thereto of the China Bay Installation at Tricomalee consisting of 99 storage tanks for oil for a period 35 years.

(b) Former Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, and the Defence Attache in the Mission did travel to Trincodmalee in April 2002.

(c) and (d) The Indo-Sri Lanka accord 1987 has been overtaken by political developments in Sri Lanka, especially the Ceasefire Agreement entered into by the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in February 2002.

Indian Fishermen in foreign jails

3639. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fishermen in the jails of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the last week of February 2003, Pakistan freed 280 Indian fishermen; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to get released of the Indian fishermen from foreign jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Pakistan—As per information available as on 10.04.2003, 245 Indian fishermen and 42 boats are currently detained in Pakistan.

Myanmar—As per information available with our Mission, there are 5 fishermen stated to be Indian nationals who are in Myanmar jails for more than six months.

Bangladesh—There are 7 Indian fishermen in Bangladesh Jails.